Ufford PUNCH

Issue 337

February 2025

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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

Welcome to the February edition of the Ufford PUNCH.

Clear blue skies and frosty surfaces, a welcome relief from the dull, grey, wet days we have endured recently. I much prefer these mornings, even if it does involve some dancing on the ice rink that can be School Lane and The Avenue!

On the first day of January, the weather could not have been any more different to that on the front cover. In this edition we celebrate the huge effort of Julie and Lee Murray (and friends) in organising the annual New Year's Day Treasure Hunt. We also acknowledge the fortitude of one team, *Pinner's Winners,* who survived the mid-day deluge that saw off much of the competition (p14-16).

Elsewhere in this issue: we tidy up some Christmas fundraisers (p6 and p17), remember the life of Ufford resident John Cornhill (p7), highlight the latest dig at Sutton Hoo (p7), bid a welcome and say a farewell to some Ufford residents (p9), update you on the village's water quality (p10), report on a private short film viewing at the Riverside Theatre (p11), cover an Ufford book launch (p12) and take a curious line on romance with Valentine's Day approaching (p13).

We also have all our regular columns, including this month a debut from Ray Whitehand in our Garden Notes section (p21). Welcome and thank you Ray.

Finally, the Ufford Players will be putting on their latest production *Murder on the Rerun* on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th April. Tickets will be on sale from Saturday 8th February. As they say ahead of all the best sell-out stage productions … 'Please book early to avoid disappointment.'

Tony Hill

Front cover - Frosty February **TH**

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

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Ufford PUNCH March 2025

Deadline for submissions: 14th February 2025

UPC Ufford Parish Council News

Community Speed Watch - Call for Volunteers

Traffic and speeding continues to be a major concern for Ufford residents; in the past 12 months the Community Speed Watch team have reported over 150 vehicles including several lorries and a tractor to the Police for speeding at over 35 mph on our roads. We have added a new location opposite the turning into Spring Lane from the High Street too.

However, although our current team of 7 volunteers are eager to continue, many are busy with grandparent duties, travel and volunteering for other groups in the village. To continue with Community Speed Watch through 2025 we need 3 or 4 more volunteers to keep this important service viable. You will only need to give up 1 or 2 hours a month, nothing more than that. If you are able to stand for an hour and read a car number plate accurately, please contact Judi at ufford.pc@hotmail.com

Dog Mess – What are individual's and Council's responsibilities?

It's no surprise that the issue of dog mess being left in public places is one of the most reported issues to any Parish Council. So what are the responsibilities of the individual and the two Councils:

Dog Owner/Walker:

As the walker of a dog it is your responsibility to ensure your dog is under control at all times (be that on or off a lead) and that, if it poops in an area open to the public, you pick this up and dispose of it in an appropriate manner, either in a Dog Bin or take it home.

Ufford Parish Council:

It is the responsibility of Ufford Parish Council to provide Dog Bins in suitable locations throughout the village and to maintain these to a high standard. There are thirteen dog bins in Ufford. If you feel there is a location where a bin is needed please let us know. There are rules on how far from the road a dog bin can be located to allow emptying; bins can't be placed on private land or fence.

East Suffolk Council (through East Suffolk Services Ltd):

East Suffolk Council through ESSL, are responsible for issuing warning letters and/or fines to dog walkers who fail to pick up after their dog. If you know of a dog walker who has failed to pick up after their dog please contact ESC at ep@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or call them on 0333 016 2000. To make a report you must have evidence; your report will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Clearing snow and ice from pavements - *Some advice from Suffolk County Council…*

Anyone can clear snow and ice from the pavement outside their home or from public spaces to prevent slips and falls. Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured, or sue you. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Find out more at https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway .

UFFORD PUNCH NOTICEBOARD

THE UFFORD PLAYERS PRESENT

'Murder on the Rerun'

FRIDAY 4TH AND SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2025 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

The Ufford Players are deep in rehearsals for their latest production 'Murder on the Rerun,' a full length mystery comedy by Fred Carmichael to be performed at the Ufford Church Hall on Friday 4th April and Saturday 5th April 2025.

A witty, fast-paced, sophisticated, yet suspenseful look at the upper crust of 'show biz.'

Tickets at £14.00 including Fish and Chips or £7.00 BYO will be on sale at the Church Hall every Saturday between 10am and 12pm from 8th February to 1st March 2025.

A note about our advertisers

Without the 38 advertisers in this edition, it would not be possible for you to receive this magazine, delivered to your door and free of charge. Please let them know you appreciate them by patronising their businesses whenever possible and telling them …

'I saw your advert in the PUNCH'

Congratulations Finn

White Lion chef Finn Boorne, 21, has just passed his first hygiene inspection by the Food Standards Agency with flying colours. The team at the White Lion were delighted for him: 'Well done Finn, we are so proud of you' - a sentiment shared by many of us in Ufford.

Local Solar Farm Planning Application to be Reconsidered

Ufford Parish Council would like to make villagers aware of a new development in the planning application submitted by British Solar Renewables (BSR) Energy.

The original proposal to place 40,000 solar panels on 37 hectares of land at Park Farm, Loudham Hall Road was approved by East Suffolk Council (ESC) in June 2024.

Their decision was quashed in the High Court in mid-September who ruled that ESC had paid insufficient attention to the heritage and environmental impact of the scheme on Grade II listed Loudham Hall and Ashe Abbey.

David Findley, UPC Chair told the PUNCH: 'Just before Christmas, we received a letter and request for feedback on the scheme from BSR Energy. I joined a meeting in early January with Sally Noble, our District Councillor, Sue Jones from Pettistree, Anne Westover from Wickham Market along with two BSR Energy representatives.'

'At the meeting, we told BSR that their letter and accompanying site plan gave insufficient detail, that there was no mention of the quashing order nor of the letter from the ESC Head of Planning urging BSR to carry out a community consultation and to provide reports on heritage impact. We asked BSR to carry out a fuller public consultation prior to the revised plan submission but they refused to do so.'

'BSR Energy will be submitting a revised application with new documents to East Suffolk Planning shortly. This will be on the ESC Planning Portal DC/21/5550/FUL and we will let you know when this is submitted.'

BSR Energy have a dedicated website with more details of the scheme.

https://britishrenewables.com/projects/park-farm-solar-park

The original planning application can be found on the East Suffolk Planning website.

https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=R3WPN6QXHPJ00&activeTab=summary

STOP PRESS: BSR Energy have now decided to hold a public consultation event during February - further details will be announced on PUNCHLine.

Christmas Carols at the Crown

There must have been something in the mulled wine this year, as the Crown's annual carol evening seemed to reach a new high. Not only were the carols sung with real enthusiasm but, with the help of a few 'professionals' placed strategically around the pub, they sounded really good! Thanks to those soloists: Sarah Ling, Owen Jones, Edward Rowell and Gabbi Crowley, who with Nick Apperley leading the carollers made the evening such a success.

Another thing that went extremely well, was the raffle. Once again Polly and Max Durrant managed to gather some wonderful prizes and over £800 was raised on the evening. This, combined with the pub's Christmas Fair earlier in the month, meant a total in excess of £2,000 had been raised for Nick's three Motor Neurone Disease charities in December.

Nick presented Polly with a Christmas bouquet in thanks for all the Crown had achieved in supporting MND charities in 2024 (above). Carol singing at it's finest! (right).

THE UFFORD CROWN

13th Anniversary

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THE UFFORD CROWN

SAVE THE DATE!

Valentine's Day - Friday 14th February
Mother's Day- Sunday 30th March
Easter Weekend - Friday 18th April to Sunday 20th April (closed Monday)

We recommend booking in advance for these popular dates to avoid disappointment.
We look forward to seeing you soon.

Please call to book a table on 01394 461030 or book online: www.theuffordcrown.com

Dog friendly with treats and water bowls

Obituary - John Edward Cornhill

Ufford resident John died peacefully at home at 5.30am on Sunday 8th December after a long illness. He was born in North London on 10th September 1940 where he grew up and lived with his parents and sister Linda.

After finishing school John did a variety of jobs but eventually passed out with 'The Knowledge' as a London taxi driver in 1966.

John loved being a taxi driver and would eat every day in the famous Cab Shelters that are all around the capital. John would meet up with his best cabbie friends at the one in Hanover Square, off Oxford Street.

The shelter could seat thirteen cabbies plus two cooks and the noise of laughter and chat could be heard by all the passers by. After meeting Tricia, John would first drop her off at her office at the Legal Service Commission before starting his day.

John and Tricia moved out of London to buy their first house together in 1981 settling in Hertfordshire where they lived until 2007 when John retired and they moved to Ufford Place. He fell in love with the house as soon as they viewed it and really enjoyed living in the village. John became passionate about his garden and enjoyed all the Gardening Club meetings and outings. He also belonged to The Woodbridge Outdoor Bowls Club and played regularly from 2010 until 2019.

John and Tricia were married for 46 years and he is survived by his son John, daughter-in-law Clair and three grandchildren, Damon, Bobby and Kayleigh.

Tricia Cornhill

Hoo Wants to Volunteer for a Time Team Dig in 2025?

The TV archaeological show Time Team will be returning to Sutton Hoo in 2025 and is asking for volunteers from Ufford to help them with the dig.

The excavation will again centre on the Garden Field at the site - just two miles away from our village - which was opened during summer 2024.

Josh Ward, Senior Visitor Experience Officer at Sutton Hoo, told the PUNCH: 'As part of the research, we're once again really excited to be working with archaeology volunteers.'

The site is well supported by talented amateur archaeologists, but a few new places will be available: 'There will still be some places available and it will be a great opportunity for local residents, like those in Ufford and Melton, to get involved,' Mr Ward added.

Local resident David Findley, who with his wife Tricia volunteered for the excavations at the *Rendlesham Revealed* project in 2022/23, welcomed the opportunity.

He said: 'We are considering the Sutton Hoo opportunity as it is a great way to discover more about our local history and the past at this important site.

Maybe at my age a whole day on my knees scraping away earth and carefully looking for finds may be too much, but helping with sorting and cataloguing is certainly worth it.'

Excavation will commence on 19th May, finishing on 13th June 2025. More details will be available on the Sutton Hoo website in early 2025.

Andy Gardner

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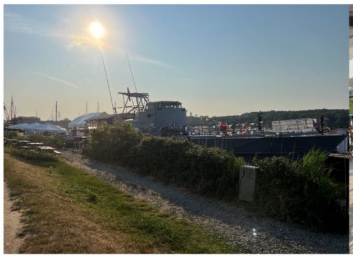

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Welcome to the Village

Hello, we are Chris and Megan Smith and we moved to Lower Road in Ufford in late November.

You will spot us about the village with our black standard poodle, Freyja. She is two and a half and a bit bouncy but loves all dogs. We do agility and dog training with her, and long walks in the forest. Our son Will is also with us until he moves to Woodbridge. We also have a cat, Tiger but he is largely an indoor cat and will move to Woodbridge with Will, so you probably won't see him.

Chris is retired from BT and plays golf at Ufford Park. He volunteers with FIND, delivering food parcels around Ipswich. I am a Psychologist, but just one day a week now, and a volunteer with a Bereavement Charity providing support to people when someone has died. I love both of these areas of work and finding out people's stories.

We both enjoy dancing tango, playing bridge with friends and book club. You might see Chris and Will jogging around Ufford and maybe me attached to Freyja for a jog/walk - maybe if I say it here it will happen! Chris also paints and plays the drums.

We have moved here from Kesgrave via Orford which has been a complicated process to say the least; I am never moving again! We are very pleased to have finally moved to Ufford and are looking forward to honing our gardening skills in our lovely new garden.

Please say hello - we look forward to meeting you.

Megan Smith

Farewell to the Village

31st January 2025 marks 30 years to the day since we made Brindles, Ufford Place our family home. Now we are moving on to embark on a retirement adventure! Our destination is Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada where we join Ian and wife Estelle to create a new family 'hub' for us, and Julie (in Toronto) and Alex (mostly in South America).

We are hugely excited! And yet … We will miss you Ufford …

We will miss the sense of a village firmly rooted in the landscape, shaped by its contours and the flow of water in the river, streams and water meadows. From our house the horizon on all sides is defined by deciduous trees, which filter the sunrise and are silhouetted by the sunset. We will miss the seasonal changes, the gardens, the wildflowers in the hedgerows. And we will miss our favourite walks, looping across fields and through woodland to Bromeswell, Eyke, Melton, Woodbridge.

We will miss the sense of continuity with the past, the timeless sound of the church bells and clock, the awareness that we are merely the most recent of the many generations of villagers to enter the church down worn steps, or walk between ancient cottages towards the White Lion.

And, of course we will miss all our friends and the warm, genuine and unselfconscious friendliness encountered everywhere around the roaring fires at the Lion and the Crown, at the annual Bonfire and Carol Service, the Car Rallies and Beer Festivals, the parties and live music, the village play and so much more.

As we exchange signs of spring for snow, and fish'n'chips for lobster and scallops, we say a fond farewell to all our friends in Ufford. It has been a wonderful 30 years!

Erica McLean

Ufford Water Quality Update

From E.coli warnings at the Ufford Hole to lobbying Anglian Water, there is a lot of work being done by Ufford volunteers to ensure the water flowing though the village is of the highest quality.

Over the past three years, Ufford volunteers have been at the centre of environmental and water quality monitoring efforts in the River Deben catchment. Working with the Woodbridge-based Deben Climate Centre, they have built a network of around 30 volunteers, sampling nearly 70 locations from the source in Debenham to the sea at Bawdsey. They report regularly, work with the Environment Agency to highlight pollution incidents and lobby for improvements in water quality.

Phosphates are an important pollutant, boosting weed and algal growth and leading to oxygen starvation in the river - this is called 'eutrophication'.

Phosphate removal plant at Debenham Sewage Treatment Works

In 2024, our lobbying led to Anglian Water installing phosphate removal technology in sewage treatment works at Debenham, Earl Soham, Charsfield and Wickham Market. At around £500,000 a time, this is a significant investment and has led to a dramatic drop in phosphate levels in some parts of the river. At Wickham Market outfall levels have dropped from around 5 ppm (parts per million) to less than 0.3 ppm - getting us closer to the 0.1 ppm 'healthy river' goal.

However, at our closest treatment works at Rendlesham, Anglian Water scrapped a wetland scheme in mid-2023 and haven't invested; they have been given longer - until mid 2027 - by the Environment Agency to install this technology - much to the disgust of campaigners and local landowners.

Since September last year, Ufford volunteers have been surveying the river for invertebrates as part of the national Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI). Using a kick-sampling technique, volunteers have sampled the river in North Meadow and further afield, looking for mayfly and caddis fly larvae and freshwater shrimps. These are good indicators of river quality; the more species found, the higher the quality.

Karen Eyres - one of our team - has been doing these kinds of studies with children and grandchildren informally for 35 years, so is well experienced in species identification: 'The Deben river has a diverse fauna representing a very healthy river. The kick samples taken during the late spring over many years always reveal mayfly and stonefly larvae, young eels and fish. Until recent years the river channel itself was cleared of excessive vegetation every few years to prevent eutrophication and flooding upstream.'

When out walking this year, you may well see our volunteers in the river (see left) using nets to catch and count these larvae. This is all part of helping to monitor the state of the River Deben and to push for improvements.

David Findley

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Assertion - the new short film from Joanna Coates

Kevin Young reports from a private viewing of a film that showcases Ufford talent

On a wicked cold Sunday in January your man from the PUNCH was nice and warm in the Riverside cinema in Woodbridge, where Ufford film maker Joanna Coates had arranged a showing of her new short film. It wasn't an official screening, but rather a chance for the cast and crew, along with a few friends, to see the finished product projected on a large screen, with a proper sound system that does it justice - before the film is entered into the international film festival circuit.

The film was shot over several days in 2024 on location in the lanes and houses of Ufford, with a cast of professional and local non-professional actors, this mix being something Joanna likes as her casting approach. Nell Atkinson plays the lead character, a young girl distressed by a specific encounter (no spoilers!) and Will Atkinson plays her brother who cannot fully empathise with her reaction; Will and Nellie have spent a lifetime rehearsing for these roles as actual brother and sister, and the experience shows in the chemistry between them, though in reality their relationship has nothing of the fractiousness portrayed in the script (this is acting, people!). The focus is firmly on Nell, but Will portrays a particularly interesting character caught between his comfortable yet constricted role as brother and his exploration of a new relationship with Seb, admirably played by rising star Adam Ali.

It rained through one day of shooting but that doesn't detract from the film – the rain particularly suits Jo's slow atmospheric shots and subtle shifts of focus. Technically, it was a finely executed piece, and my only criticism is that popcorn wasn't served. Maybe they'll fix that when it reaches the festival circuit, but in any case we will keep you updated on the progress.

WHITE LION PUB

Lower Street, Ufford

Winter at the White Lion

We are taking bookings for our revamped Marquee for all occasions.
Please contact Andy on 07538 600986

Quiz Night - Tuesday 11th February Meal 7pm , Quiz 8pm
Romantic Open Mic Night - Thursday 13th February 7pm
Valentine's Day - Friday 14th February 6pm - 9pm
Chef Finn will be creating some sharing dishes.
Kit's Quiz Night - Wednesday 19th February 7pm
Quiz Night - Tuesday 25th February Meal 7pm , Quiz 8pm

We are closed from Monday 3rd Feb - Thursday 6th Feb. Re open Friday 7th February

Opening Times for February: Closed all day Monday
Tuesday - Saturday 12-2:30pm 6-10pm
Sunday - 12 noon-9pm

For additional information or to book a table or an event contact
Andy on 07538 600986 or 01394 460770 info@uffordwhitelion.co.uk

stephen_thurlow@hotmail.com Please reserve a table to avoid disappointment 01394 460770

Please check our website for details of our events: www.uffordwhitelion.co.uk

On Our Doorstep - Aldeburgh Museum Exhibition

Every year Aldeburgh Museum, in the Moot Hall, stages an exhibition in one of the town's art galleries. Recent years have seen an exhibition of documents from the history of a famous local garage and one about the changing face of the High Street.

Aldeburgh Museum - Many people do not realise that the Moot Hall is still the town hall, with the museum being situated in the Council Chamber. It is in fact the longest continuously operating town hall in England - since the time of Henry VIII.

The 2024 exhibition was the 200 year history of lifeboats stationed at Aldeburgh, and was staged in the Ballroom Arts Courtyard Gallery at the beginning of January 2025. For these last three exhibitions I have been the honorary editor of the book of the exhibition.

The exhibition books are always hardback, in landscape format and this year's comprises 68 pages. It is a picture book, detailing the history of every lifeboat stationed at Aldeburgh, together with a few crew details and contemporary news stories. The book is a tribute to the lifeboat crews and a fund-raiser for the museum.

As I am a new resident of Ufford, and as a bit of fun, Andy at the White Lion and I cooked up a book launch, which occurred there on 21st December 2024. Five past, current and future lifeboat crew-members attended and books were sold, personalised by my signature. Most importantly, I met some old and made some new friends. This event was publicised at the last minute, because the printers delivered six days late and just seven hours before the launch.

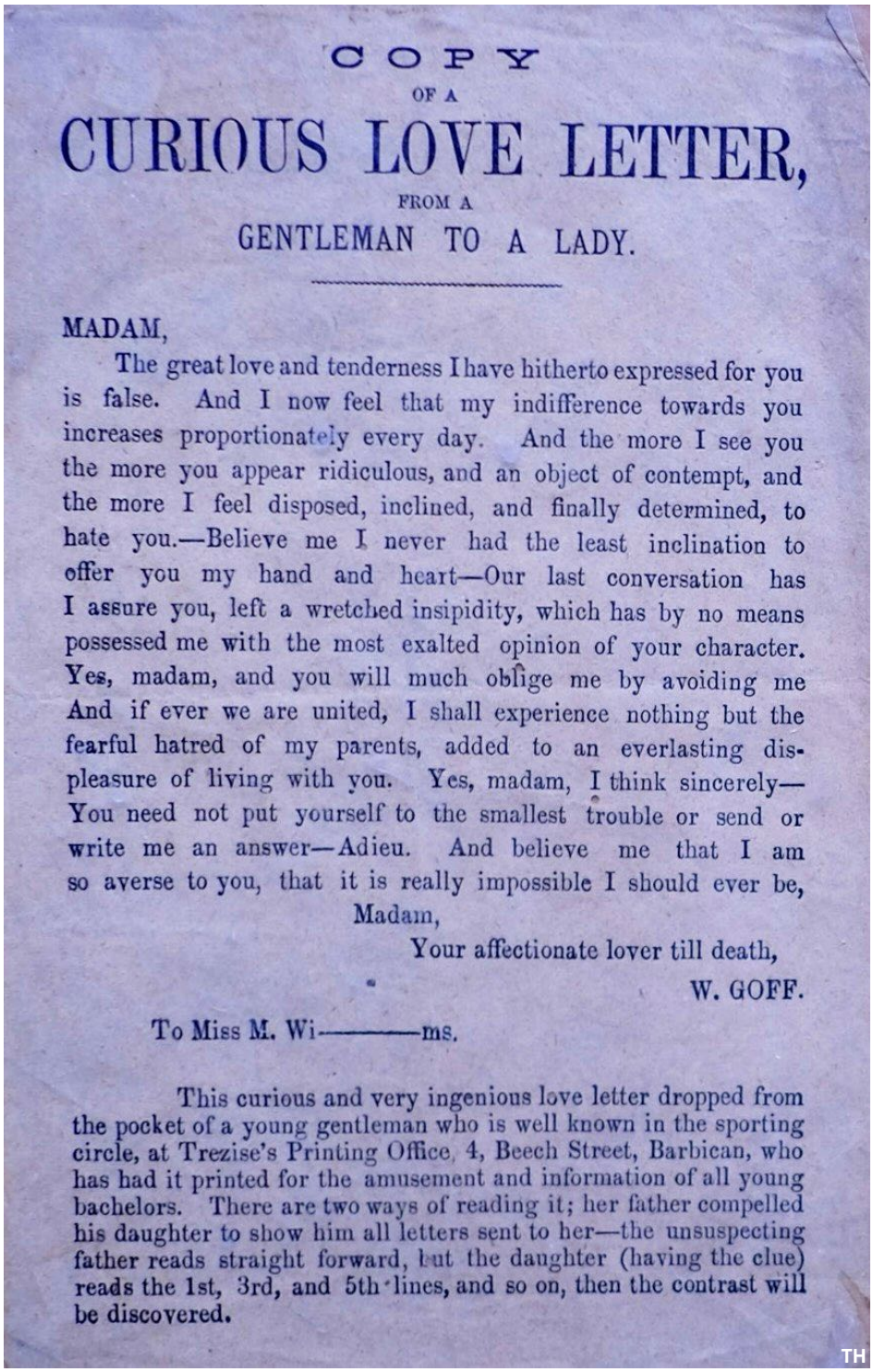
If any reader missed the launch, a copy is available for viewing in the White Lion (for a donation to the RNLI). A copy of the book can be purchased at the museum, which is currently open at weekends between 13.00 and 16.00 or alternatively ask me for a copy as I work there a couple of times a month.

This year £1 of the £18 cost is being given to the RNLI, who helped us with some images and were very supportive.

Peter Turner
2 Lady Cottages, Church Lane
07903 251008 or p.t@gmx.com

Lifeboat Freddie Cooper on a return to Aldeburgh beach. A Mersey class lifeboat that served at Aldeburgh station from 1993 to 2024. She was the last all-weather boat to be stationed there, with a crew of six she could launch within ten minutes of the 'shout'. Permission to reproduce this image by Tony Bone, Chairman of Aldeburgh Museum.

‘You Don’t Have to Say You Love Me’



COPY

OF A

CURIOUS LOVE LETTER,

FROM A

GENTLEMAN TO A LADY.

MADAM,

The great love and tenderness I have hitherto expressed for you is false. And I now feel that my indifference towards you increases proportionately every day. And the more I see you the more you appear ridiculous, and an object of contempt, and the more I feel disposed, inclined, and finally determined, to hate you.—Believe me I never had the least inclination to offer you my hand and heart—Our last conversation has I assure you, left a wretched insipidity, which has by no means possessed me with the most exalted opinion of your character. Yes, madam, and you will much oblige me by avoiding me And if ever we are united, I shall experience nothing but the fearful hatred of my parents, added to an everlasting displeasure of living with you. Yes, madam, I think sincerely—You need not put yourself to the smallest trouble or send or write me an answer—Adieu. And believe me that I am so averse to you, that it is really impossible I should ever be,

Madam,

Your affectionate lover till death,

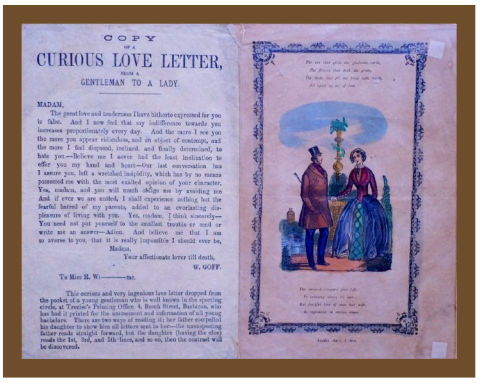
W. GOFF.

To Miss M. Wi————ms.

This curious and very ingenious love letter dropped from the pocket of a young gentleman who is well known in the sporting circle, at Trezise’s Printing Office, 4, Beech Street, Barbican, who has had it printed for the amusement and information of all young bachelors. There are two ways of reading it; her father compelled his daughter to show him all letters sent to her—the unsuspecting father reads straight forward, but the daughter (having the clue) reads the 1st, 3rd, and 5th lines, and so on, then the contrast will be discovered.

TH

Valentine’s Day cards were first sent in the 15th Century and by the Victorian era were being delivered in their hundreds of thousands. However navigating romance, as witnessed in countless literary classics of the time, was somewhat troublesome. The hurdles of strict moral codes and class called for secrecy and inventive minds.



Many thanks to Jan King for sharing this Victorian curiosity, a ‘Love Letter’ from around 1850. The framed piece, that was Jan’s grandmother’s before she inherited it, now takes pride of place in the downstairs loo of Jan’s Ufford home!

It is an example of a broadside (large single sheets of paper printed on one side only) and like a lot of Victoriana is quite odd! Which ironically is the key to the letter - remember to read the odd numbered lines to understand the true nature of the suitor’s feelings.

In many ways it encapsulates the villainous and romantic characters in the novels of that time. Without the key it would have appeared cruel, mocking and caddish, with the key …

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New Year's Day Treasure Hunt

Despite the diabolical weather, ten teams braved the elements on New Year's Day for the annual treasure hunt. This year's excellent trail was devised by Julie and Lee Murray with help from Rich and Sarah Dempsey, who were last year's winners Go Ballistic. Julie describes the months of planning and the importance of a few 'liveners' to stimulate the thought process!

It was quite a challenge trying to come up with new ideas, clues and routes having participated for a number of years with the standard increasing each year. After all, Ufford is a fairly small village and many landmarks and properties had been featured before.

We were first inspired to introduce a couple of stop off points when we put our 2024 success down to popping home for a Christmas Gin! From here the concept of winning points and a festive tipple was propagated.

With I'm A Celebrity also popular in the run up to Christmas the idea of The Ufford Post was based on the kiosk challenges and we loved how 'Kiosk Keith' either slammed down the shutters for a wrong answer or rewarded participants with a treat if they chose the correct answer. The stable door at Andy and Amanda's house was perfect for creating the same effect.

Keeping with the New Year's Day theme, questions on the Number 1 single on January 1st across the years felt fitting, and Amanda had made a delicious mince pie gin for winners along with the choice of champagne.

The second stop was on the last leg of the walk at our house (Julie and Lee's). Lee had been busy making limoncello, grapefruitcello, and toffee vodka for the teams who could correctly guess a tune hummed by their team member. Doggie treats and chocolates for children were also provided.

The bar on the driveway named *Wonky's* after our deer as well as the effect of the drinks, featured music, disco lights and a smoke machine. Unfortunately, due to the torrential rain, not many made it to the final stop.

The visual round was placed in categories – who knew we had so many weather cocks in the village! Anagrams and a pathway through the wood, guided by lettered baubles also featured as part of the walk.

Perhaps the most exciting new addition was the introduction of the prestigious White Lion Trophy. Specifically designed to match the White Lion in the grounds of the pub, the trophy is engraved with the event name as well as the annual winners.

Julie Murray

Probably not the right question to ask someone looking like the wettest person in Suffolk: 'So, did you manage to finish all the course?' … 'I don't know and I don't care!'

The Pinner Takes It All

Marty Pinner is married to my sister Eliza, they live at Anvil Cottage at the end of School Lane and have been Ufford residents for about ten years.

I was asked in the White Lion why our team persevered with completing the full walk in the midst of a monsoon-like drenching. Now in the past, I've been accused of being the only person in Ufford who can turn making a cup of black coffee into a competition. My motto is 'If it's there to be won, then try and win it'. But if truth be told, I just really wanted my brother-in-law to have to organise next year's treasure hunt!

Our team 'Pinners Winners', as it has been for the last decade, comprised Simon and Sandy Such (of Reeves

The Ufford Post

Ever fancied mimicking Kiosk Keith of I'm a Celebrity fame and slamming a door in the face of some poor villager? Well, the New Year's Day walk and quiz provided the perfect excuse.

On New Year's Day 2024, after a few drinks you'll be surprised to hear, myself and Amanda Baker agreed with the quiz winners that our little cottage would be the perfect venue for Ufford's version of the Australian outback shack.

3 Post Office Cottages - renamed The Ufford Post for the challenge - has a half stable door that could be opened and slammed quite easily. It just needed a couple of good Ufford Cobbers to run it ...

As we didn't know any, we had a swift Buck's Fizz, put on a silly hat (mine was a sheriff's hat from Lee Murray's extensive dressing up box) and waited for the first walker to ring the bell.

They duly arrived at a little after 10.30am and were greeted by a terrifying sight (we saw the New Year in at the White Lion) and a fiendishly difficult question based on previous number one hits on the 1st January.

Walkers were asked what was the top of the pops on new year in a particular year and given three answers. Pick the right one and you got a spicy Christmas rum (alternatives were available) or a chocolate, but get it wrong and you were met with a stony silence, a slammed door and a long walk.

Being nice, we chose 2024 for the first team: The options were - Last Christmas by Wham!, Now and Then by the Beatles and Lovin on Me by Jack Harlow. Do you know? Have a guess and you can find the answer on page 16. Suffice to say, our intrepid and keen walkers

supped Amanda's home made rum concoction and waddled away a little more cheery. They were as happy as a dingo in the dirt. As the less enthusiastic or more hungover shuffled along, the shame of a slammed door hung in the air like Andy Jarrett's cologne. Who would be the first to fall?

Enter Stephen Thurlow, Jane Moyse and Garrow and Helen Shand. Surely everyone remembers the 2015 Number One? Apparently, Something I Need by Ben Haenow wasn't particularly popular in the village.

The window door closed with a satisfying thud and Stephen looked on astonished as the specially purchased Shortcross Gin (Christmas spiced rum wasn't good enough for the pub landlord) was returned to the cupboard. Oh well, never mind.

In total, ten teams took on Awful Andy and Atrocious Amanda in the I'm Not a Celebrity Challenge with six coming away with an alcohol version of Dingo Dollars.

Strewth, that was fun. **Andy Gardner**

Hall in Eyke), Richard and Jo Shaw (divorced, but magnificently reunited each year, bizarrely to compete in the treasure hunt) myself, my wife Gill and my sister Eliza (Pize) and Marty.

We love the event and have religiously attended every year. This year we dressed for the rain, wearing our open water robes in readiness, which by 12.30pm gave us the edge. It was a pleasure to win and Marty looked delighted in having to follow the brilliant effort of Julie and Lee Murray.

No pressure then. **Alex Brigginshaw**

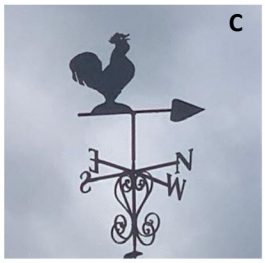
The Treasure Hunt

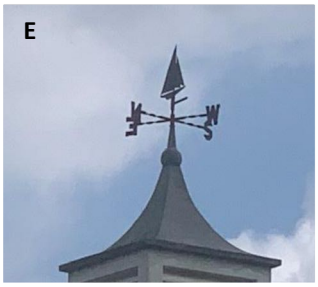
Thanks to Julie and Lee for supplying the final leg of their treasure hunt, there are questions and visual searches. Why don't you give it a try and see how you would have done?

The Last Leg: From Lazy Acres, Turn Right onto High St, Left Into Crownfields, Down School Lane and The Avenue, Turn Right into Barrack Lane and back to The White Lion (Disclaimer - may not all be in exact order)

A Fox Lives Here?
What happens at 9.00am Monday to Friday?
Double your luck here?
Who was minted in 1956?
Environmentally friendly building materials?
A round of applause for these residents?
The capital of the New Forest?
Pink car in a smash?
Warrior of the road?
'*Home wee waited*' confused at this Cottage?
No snakes but plenty of ladders.
From Ufford to New Zealand in one easy step.
If you walked Loudham to Eyke and back again, x the distance to Ipswich from here – how far would you have walked?
What does the wave on the signpost represent?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18





ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

TH

WHAT WAS THE NUMBER 1 ON 1st JANUARY 2024? - It was Last Christmas by Wham!

Suffolk Tractor Light Parade

A procession of 125 tractors (including many from our local farms) rolled into Ufford on the evening of Sunday 15th December, much to the delight of hundreds of tractor-mad villagers that lined the route. Over £12,000 was raised for three charities: East Anglian Air Ambulance, Suffolk Libraries and the Eastern Community Assistance Team.

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TREASURE HUNT ANSWERS

The Den, Post Collection, School House – has two lucky horseshoes on the wall, Farthings – the year the coin was minted, Green Tiles, Clappers, Lyndhurst – a village there known as the capital, Roseacre, Pam manhole / grid cover in road, White Meadow Cottage anagram, Milverton, Tauranga - New Zealand city, Loudham to Eyke 1.5 + 1.75 = 3.25 and back again x 2 = 6.5 x 10 = 65 miles, The Ford of The King of Uffa – on the sign.

A - 25 Crownfields, B - 46 Crownfields, C - Kar-Lin, School Lane, D - Mainview, School Lane, E - Green Tiles, School Lane, F - Clappers, School Lane.

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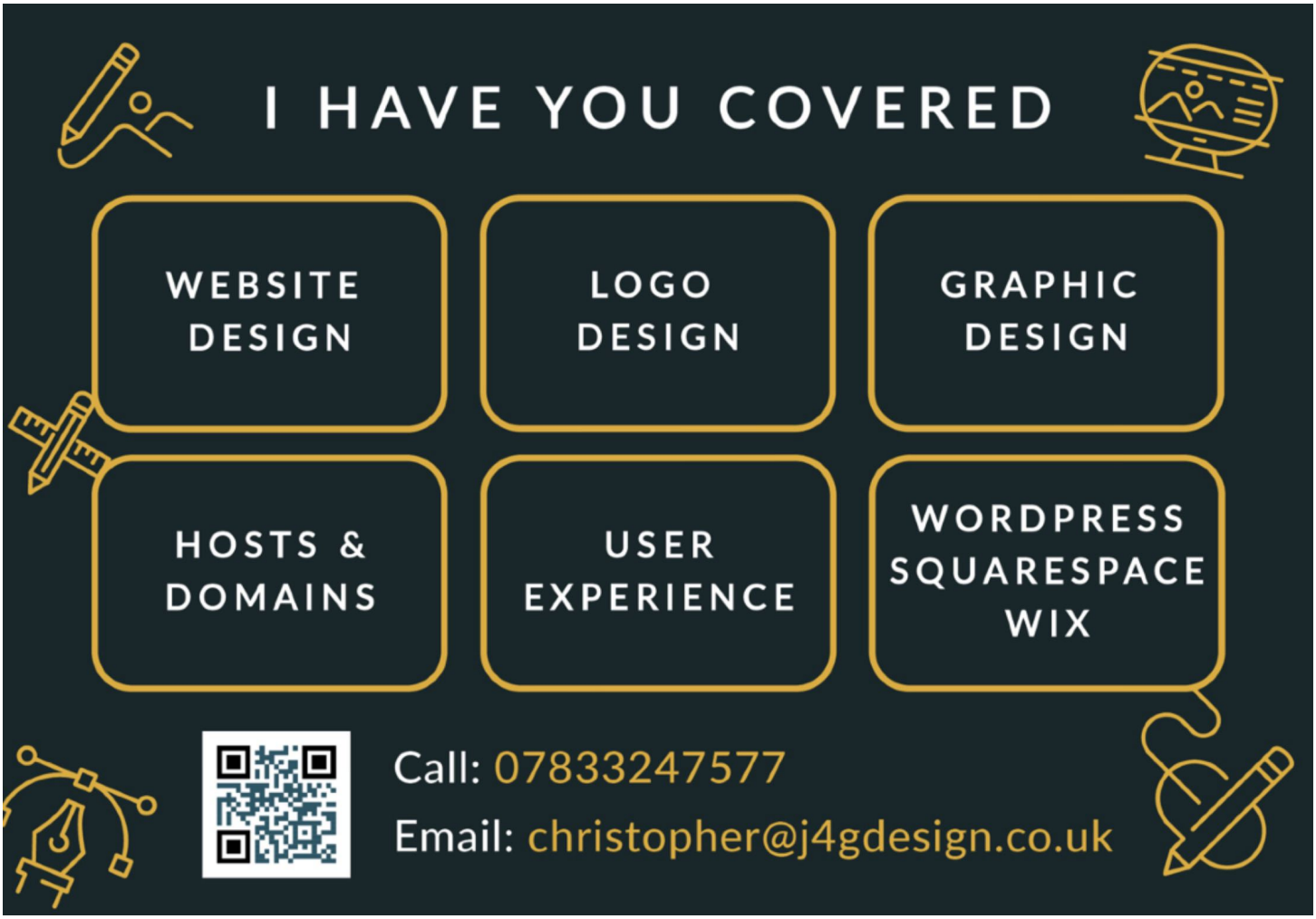
Nature Notes by Chris Reading (christopher.reading@icloud.com)

This month marks my one-year anniversary of writing this column. I enjoy being part of the Ufford PUNCH team and have been made very welcome. I should like to thank my predecessor, Laurence Potter, for his continued support and friendship. I have been appointed a Garden BirdWatch (GBW) Ambassador for the British Trust for Ornithology. I applied because I thought you got free Ferrero Rocher for life but it's not that sort of ambassador. My role is to help promote the GBW in Suffolk and beyond. Unlike the annual Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB, the BTO version runs all year round and includes other forms of wildlife, not just birds. It has been going since 1995, so this year will mark its 30th anniversary. Gardens are important habitats for wildlife. We need to understand how and why populations of garden birds and other wildlife are changing, and how we can help them. You can help by recording what you see in your garden and entering the data on the BTO website. For further information, you can email me or visit their website. I am interested in any ideas you may have on how to promote the GBW, particularly to children and young people. I would also welcome suggestions for topics you would like me to cover during the coming year.

Photo: Courtesy of John Richardson

https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw/about

Nature Knowledge – One of the birds you might be lucky enough to spot in your garden is the goldfinch. I sometimes have up to six on or around my feeder. This is a colourful finch with a bright red face, a white collar and yellow wing patch. Their fine beaks allow them to extract seeds from thistles and teasels. They love sunflower hearts. Many UK goldfinches migrate as far south as Spain. They have a charming, tinkling song, which is appropriate because a flock of goldfinches is called a charm.



Gardening Club Meeting - Tin Shed Flower Farm

Did you know that 90 percent of the cut flowers sold in this country are imported from abroad, sometimes from as far away as Kenya and Columbia?

Have you ever noticed that those flowers you bought from the petrol station on the way home don't actually smell of anything, are tired looking and are not even in season?

Photo with the permission of Tim and Eileen Tordoff

The carbon footprint from this activity is enormous and our speakers at the first meeting of the year for Ufford Gardening Club have a passion to do something about it and are dedicated to growing quality flowers sustainably and marketing them locally.

Tim and Eileen Tordoff, came to buy a cottage and a small plot in Mellis, Suffolk six years ago, far from their previous home, in a place very different climatically, Colorado. They had a dream to set up a small cut flower business called 'Tin Shed Flower Farm' growing blooms not normally stocked by commercial florists.

They now grow a huge variety of flowers sustainably, without the use of pesticides, herbicides or, crucially, that exhausting and sometimes painful activity, digging! They are converts to the new movement for 'no dig' horticulture as espoused by Charles Dowding who has a huge following as the 'no dig' guru.

It certainly seems to work for them and they explained in detail how they came to make an unpromising, one and a half acres of clay soil with layers of rubble become, in no short time, a highly productive and extremely colourful plot. This plot produces sweet smelling flowers in season for local weddings, funerals, bespoke bouquets, 'pick your own' classes and monthly flower subscriptions. All cut fresh at dawn, kept cool and dispatched within a carbon footprint friendly twenty five mile radius.

To our delight they also brought along jars of delicious floral honey to sell us from their three hives and very happy bees.

Ros Conway

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Same old.

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Garden Notes From The Almshouse

Ray Whitehand moved into his Almshouse in June of last year and got straight to work in his garden. Getting his hands dirty has been part of Ray's life, working initially in his parent's garden in Pettistree and then for many decades in a number of nurseries and large properties. There is no one better qualified to give us some anecdotes and a few tips for this time of year.

This time of year reminds me of my start in horticulture. Following the hard winter of 1962/63 (when even the A12 at Pettistree was blocked by snow drifts) the likes of Notcutt's nurseries had to lay off many of their workforce. Once the weather broke, the company looked to recruit again. As I was having difficulty in finding a place at the Suffolk College to study to become a draughtsman, Dad suggested I applied for a job at the nursery as a stopgap - very much on the basis, anything was better than nothing. I recall it was a bitterly cold morning when Dad and I set foot in the Chairman's office in the first week of April 1963. It was with virtually his first sentence that Mr Charles offered me a job, working in the propagation greenhouses. 'I like to be called Mr Charles, do you prefer Ray or Raymond?'

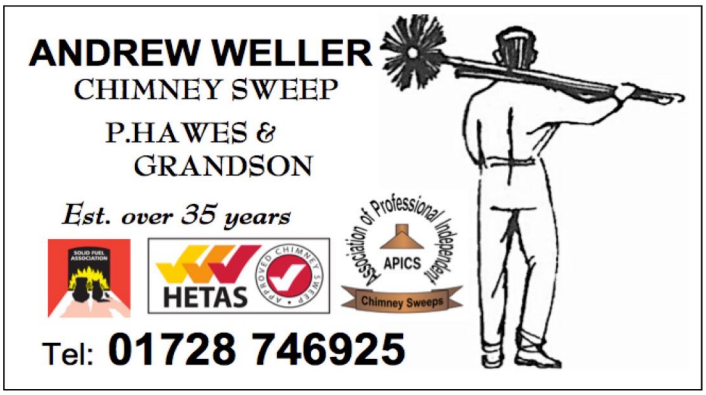
My first job was sitting in a tiny outbuilding with a bale of 5,000 three foot canes, which I had to unpack and tie up into bundles of 25. My other main job was preparing the various compost mixes needed, be it for seed sowing, cuttings or potting on. The different types would consist of various quantities of loam, leaf mould, and either sharp sand or crag, the latter being centuries old crushed shells found along the banks of Martlesham Creek. Various mixes of fertiliser would be added depending on the final usage. All this before garden centres started selling multipurpose 'one size fits all' compost for the casual gardener.

The winter season was often a time for landscaping projects. In 1994, the owner of one of my private garden jobs offered me full time employment in return for using the winter months to create three natural ponds linked by a series of man made streams. Machinery was hired to dig out the three ponds which were strategically created along a dike running down through the middle of the old orchard cum stack yard. The ponds were dug to depths of between 4 and 7 foot. The sides and bottom were then tidied up by hand, then lined with fine sand and then bitumen sheeting. Sifted clay based soil was added to weigh the lining down. Then a mixture of deep water planting such as lilies, several marginals and a few bog plants were used to soften the edges.

It is a harsh season but if the weather is too inclement for outside work, there are plenty of maintenance jobs which can be carried out inside. Cleaning and sharpening of tools or checking for any general repairs needed before the new season starts. An annual service of lawn mowers can save interruptions during the cutting season. Another important job is to bring any wooden furniture under cover, then once thoroughly dried, given a good coat of Danish oil in readiness of spring's arrival.

One of my first jobs at the Almshouse will be to pot up some of my dahlia tubers and place them inside ready to force some early cuttings, which will be established enough to flower in the autumn. Asparagus beds which were cleaned up and dressed over winter should now have the bulk of the dressing removed and a sprinkling of salt added ready for a harvest to begin in early spring. Similar treatment can be offered to any established roots of rhubarb or chicory, cover these with terracotta pots or anything such as upturned containers, to keep the light out.

Ray Whitehand



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UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

EVENTS

8th February (Sat)	Tickets on sale for the Ufford Players 10.00am to 12.00 noon	SMPH
10th February (Mon)	Friends of Parklands Wood - Working Party 9.00am	UCH
11th February (Tue)	White Lion Quiz Night - Food from 7.00pm, Quiz at 8.00pm	
12th February (Wed)	Ufford Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12.00 noon	UCH
13th February (Thu)	White Lion Open Mic Night 7.00pm	
14th February (Fri)	Valentine's Day	
18th February (Tue)	Ufford Parish Council - Meeting 7.00pm	UCH
19th February (Wed)	Kit's Quiz at the White Lion 7.00pm	
24th February (Mon)	Friends of Parklands Wood - Working Party 9.00am	UCH
25th February (Tue)	White Lion Quiz Night - Food from 7.00pm, Quiz at 8.00pm	
26th February (Wed)	Ufford Gardening Club - Low Maintenance Gardening	
	Talk by Fiona Edmunds from Green Island Gardens at 7.30pm	UCH

CLASSES AND CLUBS

Tai Chi Classes	Mondays at 2.15pm	UCH
Tennis Club	Mondays and Fridays from 5.00pm	UCH
Carpet Bowls	Tuesdays at 2.00pm	UCH
Crocodile Rock	Tuesdays 9.45am - 10.45am and 11.15am - 12.00 noon	UCH
Ufford Bell Ringers	Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm	
Happy Babies	Thursdays 9.30am -10.30am and 11am - 12 noon	UCH

BRIDGE CLUBS

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Bridge Club
Wednesday 12th and 26th February - 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH **St Mary's Parish Hall**

UCH **Ufford Community Hall**

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

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Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
bookings.uch@gmail.com

Crocodile Rock
crocodilerock.music@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

Friends of Parklands Wood
Mike Hawthorne 01394 420241

Happy Babies
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

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Parish Council & website
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Parish Church Committee
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k.eyres@btopenworld.com

PUNCHLine
Tig Thomas 07710 882559
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St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
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Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Bell Ringers
Kate Eagle 07765 252515
kate.eagle1@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01423 333167

Ufford Tai-Chi
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

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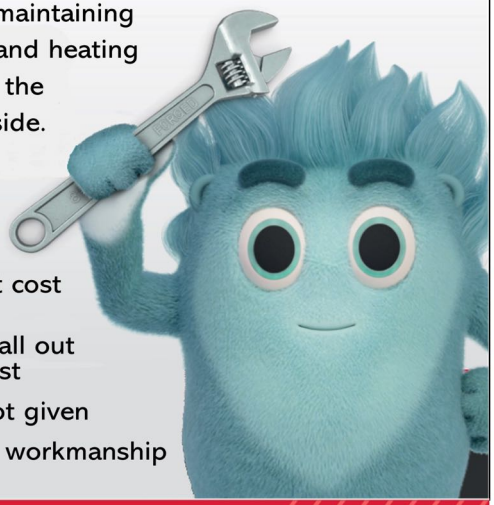

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Church Office: St. Andrew's Church, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1PX T: 01394 387491
Church Wardens of Ufford: Karen Eyres T: 01394 460455
David Perfect T: 01394 460363

February seems to have come up upon us fast, well I feel like it has. Christmas seems like a long distant time and off we plough well and truly into 2025!

But we should not be too quick to pack Christmas away! At the beginning of February, the church calendar keeps the feast of the presentation of Jesus.

Under Jewish custom a new born was taken to the temple by their parents and presented to God in thanksgiving.

There is a lot more to the story of the presentation of Jesus, but I just would like to offer one thread. As the baby Jesus was presented to the temple, he was seen as the light of the world, the one sent by God to show us the immense love of God.

Immense love and light is needed so so much in our world. That light and love starts within each of us knowing that all of us are loved by God no matter what.
Whatever you believe, believe that you are loved even in those dark times.

Jesus the Son of God is with us and his love conquers all!

So, as we well and truly leap into 2025, let us never lose sight of Jesus as the light of the world and that he opens his loving heart to all.

With love and prayers
Father Paul

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone welcome at all Services

Sunday 2nd Candlemas
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sunday 9th 4 Before Lent
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Sunday 16th 3 Before Lent
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sunday 23rd 2 Before Lent
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Bank - donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry 'at St Andrew's Church, Melton and Collection Box at Ufford Church.

Thank you. **Jenny Searle**

LENT COURSE

"Traditions of the Eucharist"

By John Hare

Wednesday AM or PM during Lent – sign up in St. Mary's Church

Online prayer resources:

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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Valentine's Day Word Search

J	H	S	S	I	K			G	E	A	F	D	T
L	C	R	O	U	D	P	H	P	N	W	E	N	C
A	O	H	B	C	A	R	D	S	I	M	B	E	O
G	D	I	O	V	Q	Z	F	P	T	Y	R	I	S
U	C	P	Y	C	U	P	I	D	N	D	U	R	E
R	I	A	F	E	O	L	T	B	E	H	A	F	V
X	T	D	R	I	V	L	R	K	L	O	R	L	A
E	N	Y	I	W	S	O	A	S	A	C	Y	R	S
D	A	T	E	U	E	V	E	T	V	D	U	I	D
P	M	O	N	C	S	E	H	F	E	I	V	G	O
	O	V	D	R	O	A	T	M	H	S	P	L	
	R	F	O	U	R	T	E	E	N	T	H	W	
			K	S	I	M	E	O	U	X			
				H	E	Y	W	P	R				
					D	L	S	A					
						T	H						

Boyfriend	Cupid	Girlfriend	Romantic
Cards	Date	Kiss	Roses
Chocolates	February	Love	Sweetheart
Crush	Fourteenth	Poem	Valentine

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